

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicant: Roger P. Jackson

Serial No.: 09/552,743

Date: December 23, 2002

Filed: April 18, 2000

Group Art Unit: 3738

Exam: B. Pellegrino

For: ANTERIOR EXPANDABLE SPINAL FUSION CAGE SYSTEM

Kansas City, Missouri

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

DEC 3 0 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

Kindly enter the following preliminary amendment prior to first action on the continuation of this application:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims as noted.

## The following are the amended claims in clean format.

- 31. An apparatus for positionally stabilizing adjacent vertebrae of a spine by promotion of bone fusion between the adjacent vertebrae, said apparatus comprising:
  - a) an anteriorly expandable implant adapted to promote bone growth between the adjacent